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MINUTES

OF THE

SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

WESTERN BAPTIST CONVENTION,

COLORED.

HELD WITH THE

WAYNESVILLE CHURCH

OCTOBER 4TH, 5TH, 6TH AND 7TH,

1883.

MINUTES

OF THE

Seventh Annual Session

OF THE

Western Baptist Convention,

(COLORED.)

HELD WITH THE

Waynesville Church,

Haywood County, N. C.,

OCTOBER 4TH, 5TH, 6TH AND 7TH, 1883.

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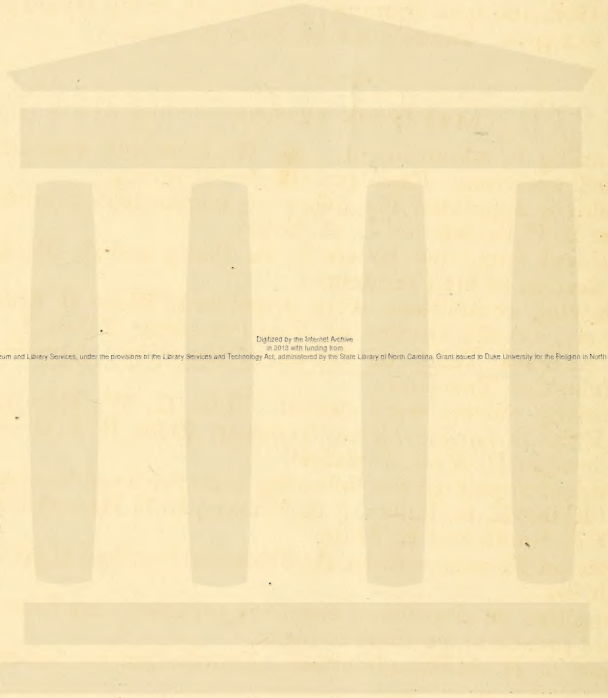

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PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4th, 1883.

Met according to adjournment. L. A. Bailey preached the Introductory Sermon at 11 o'clock, a. m., from the text: "Paul saw, he thanked God, and took courage." Acts 28:15. Sang Hymn 705. Adjourned to 2 p. m. Benediction by Elder S. Lindsey.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Met according to adjournment.. C. W. Hemphill conducted the devotional exercises. Read 2nd chapter of James.

The President appointed the following committee on credentials: Elder B. F. Brown and L. A. Bailey.

The President appointed Elders L. A. Bailey and A. Black as Tellers on election of the President.

The following committees were appointed: Elder B. Brown and R. Lyday, on the election of Vice-President: Elders L. A. Bailey and A. Black, Tellers on election of Secretary. Appointed the same Tellers on Treasurer.

The following officers were elected: Elder C. W. Hemphill, President; Elder S. Lindsey, Vice-President; Elder B. F. Brown, Secretary; brother H. Mills, Treasurer.

The President appointed the following committee on devotional exercises: Elders L. A. Bailey, J. R. Walker, B. F. Hemphill and brethren D. L. Smith and H. Mills.

Committee on Finance.—Elder A. Black and brethren H. Walker and H. Mills.

The committee on devotional exercises reported that Elder A. Black would preach at 8 o'clock to-night.

On motion of H. Mills, adjourned. Benediction by Elder S. Lindsey.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5TH,

The Convention met pursuant to adjournment. Devotional exercises by C. W. Hemphill.

Minutes of yesterday read and approved.

The President appointed the following committee on the hours of meeting and adjournment: Elder C. Johnson and D. Anderson,

who reported 9 o'clock as the hour to meet, and to adjourn at 11 o'clock; meet at 1 o'clock and adjourn at pleasure.

Enrolled Delegates' names from the following churches:

Garrison's Chapel.—B. F. Brown.

Pine Grove.—A. B. Baxter.

Bethel.—C. White.

French Broad.—H. Walker, R. Lyday, D. Smith, R. F. Merrell.

New Concord.—S. Lindsey.

Mud Creek, Mount Zion, Pleasant Grove, Green Mountain, Arden, Sandy Mush, Turkey Creek, New Salem, Big Pine, Fine's Creek, Asheville, Mill Shoal, Waynesville, Liberty, Webster, Swain, Bakersville, Shady Grove, Mill Pond, Hendersonville and St. Johns, not represented.

In the case of W. N. Taylor, where he was a legal member of the Convention and failed to get into the Association, after debate by Elders A. Black and C. W. Hemphill he was received into the Convention, on presentation of a letter from his church.

The President invited visiting brethren to seats with us. No response.

S. L. Sales joined the Convention from the Asheville church.

The case of brother John Miller wrs considered, and L. A. Bailey moved that the fellowship of the church and Convention be withdrawn from him until he be reconciled to the brethren, and then come and offer the gift. Motion adopted.

The committee on devotional exercises reported that brother C Johnson would preach at 11 o'clock a. m., when the Convention adjourned for preaching.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Met according to adjournment. Devotional exercises conducted by the President.

On motion of L. A. Bailey, minutes of the morning session read and adopted.

A motion was made to have each brothers text and prayer in the minutes. The subject was brought up by Elders C. Johnson and A. Brock, and after discussion by H. Mills it was voted down.

The President appointed the following committees:

On Deceased Ministers.—Elders S. Lindsey, W. N. Taylor and R. Merrell.

On Destitution.—Elders C. Jonston, D. Anderson and brother A. Baxter.

To Revise List of Names and addresses of Ministers.—Elders S. Lindsey, D. Anderson and brother A. Black.

On Home Missions.—Elders B. F. Hemphill, brethren C. White and J. S. Cunningham.

On Sabbath-schools.—S. Cunningham, J. L. Chisolm, G. Orr and J. Walker.

On Missionary Sermon.—D. S. Smith, B. F. Hemphill and R. Lyday.

On Time and Place of next Convention.—D. R. Anderson, A. Black and S. Lindsey.

On Education.—H. B. Brown, H. Mills and W. Sales.

The committee on devotional exercises reported that W. Sales would preach to-night at 8 o'clock.

Adjourned. Benediction by Elder S. Lindsey.

SATURDAY MORNING, Octobor 6th, 1883.

Devotional exercises conducted by the President, C. W. Hemphill. The minutes of yesterday read and adopted.

The committee on Time and Place reported that the next session of this Convention be held with Hendersonville church, commencing on Thursday before the first Sabbath in October, 1884, at 11 o'clock a. m.

Report on Destitution read by Elder D. Anderson. Adopted.

Report on Periodicals read by Elder B. F. Brown, and adopted.

Brother W. McJunkins presented a bill which Elder B. F. Brown read asking the Convention to tell the amount of money procured from the Asheville Convention. The reply was $2.00 for Home Missions. The Board of officers of the Asheville church claimed a part of the collection. Asheville received $11.00. Total amount $31.00.

The committee on Devotional Exercises reported that Elder S. Lindsey would preach at 11 o'clock.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Met according to adjournment. C W. Hemphill conducted the devotional exercises.

The subject of Missions was debated by the following brethren: Elders B. F. Hemphill, C. Johnston, J. L Chisolm, L. A. Bailey, A. Black, S. Lindsey and C. W. Hemphill.

The President appointed the following committee to select a Missionary: B. F. Hemphill, C. Johnson and A. Black.

The Missionary handed in his report, which was adopted.

Report on Sabbath Schools was read by J. J. Chisolm, and adopted.

Brother H. Mills asked the Convention to give instruction how to run a Sabbath School Mission. Debated by J. L. Chisolm and B. F. Brown.

Committee on Mission disagreed.

The President appointed the following committee on Missionary: J. L. Chisolm, H. Walker and A. Black.

Report on names and addresses of Ministers was read by L. A. Bailey, and adopted.

Report on Deceased Ministers read by W. N. Taylor. Adopted.

Report on the Duty of Deacons read by A. Black and adopted.

Report on amendment of the Constitution read by L. A. Bailey and adopted.

Report of committee on Missionary to go on the field read by J. L. Chisolm, which was rejected.

C. Johnson moved to strike out R. A. Hemphill. Motion lost.

H. B. Brown moved to strike out A. Black and insert B. F. Brown.

The Convention voted B. F. Brown Missionary for the next year.

The committee on Devotional Exercises reported preaching to-night at 8 o'clock, by M. N. Taylor.

At 9 o'clock to-morrow Sabbath School address by Elder B. F. Brown.

Preaching at 11 o'clock by C. W. Hemphill; at night by S. Lindsey.

On motion, adjourned. Benediction by Elder B. F. Brown.

SUNDAY MORNING, October 7th.

The Sabbath morning was bright and beautiful, and at 9 o'clock the congregation had gathered. The services were commenced by Elder B. F. Brown. Sang Hymn 637. Prayer by Elder S. Lindsey.

Elder B. F. Brown delivered a Sabbath School lecture from the 17th chapter of Luke and 4th verse, "I am put out of the stewardship." Closing remarks by brethren J. L. Chisolm and H. B. Brown.

Brother N. B. Cobb and his congregation gave us the use of their church, and we were well entertained with good music by Miss Carrie Smathers, organist.

The Missionary Sermon was preached by Elder C. W. Hemphill. Text: 2 Tim. 2:2, "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses." He preached us an able sermon, at

the close of which a collection was taken for missions, as follows: Whites, $3.50; colored, $9.69.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Elder B. F. Brown opened the meeting, singing the 709th hymn. Elder S. Lindsey preached from Matt. 3:13. At the close of the sermon a collection was taken, amounting to $3.90.

At night Elder B. F. Hemphill preached from Heb. 11:72: "By faith they passed through the red sea as by dry land."

Night collection, $329; the total collection for the day being $20.63.

MONDAY MORNING, October 8th.

Devotional exercises conducted by Elder C. W. Hemphill. Read the 49th Psalm. Minutes of yesterday read and approved.

The Sabbath School Missionary subject was taken up and discussed by brethren J. L. Chisolm, A. Black and B. F. Brown, after which L. A. Bailey moved that we confirm brother H. Mills in the Convention. He was recommended as a Sabbath School Missionary, and that he be employed as such to meet the Boards of the Convention and build up Sabbath Schools. He was confirmed by the Convention.

Report of committee on Introductory read by R. Lyday. Adopted.

H. Mills moved to strike out the name of C. W. Hemphill and insert A. Black. Carried.

A. Black, Introductory; B. F. Hemphill, Missionary Sermon.

Elder B. F. Brown was asked to state to the Convention at what salary he could serve as missionary. He said that he would labor for $12.00.

F. Brown moved to strike out employing a missionary to labor in the bounds of the Convention this year, until next meeting, so that we can organize Missionary Boards in all the churches.

On motion of H. Mills, J. L. Chisolm was appointed Historian.

Report of committee on Finance read by A. Black. Adopted.

On motion of J. C. Johnson, the clerk was allowed $3.00 for his services, and was instructed to have 300 copies of the minutes printed.

On motion of H. Mills, adjourned to time and place hereinbefore mentioned.

Total Sabbath collection, $19,42. After the expense of the Convention was paid, there remained in the Treasury $14.32.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

Your committee on Temperance beg leave to report as follows. The question of dealing with the liquor traffic by legislative enactment is agitating the public mind and stirring the hearts of philanthropists as never before in the history of our country. Conventions and Associations are grappling with the great issue with a zeal and determination that promises large and blessed results in the near future. The noblest men and women in church and State are consecrating their heads and hearts and pens to the work. Think of one distillery having the capacity to convert, in a single day, five hundred bushels of corn—the bread God has provided for His children—into vile whiskey. Then remember that there are more than five thousand distilleries in the United States alone, that convert about eighteen million bushels of grain, and not less than two million bushels of malt, into intoxicating beverages every year. The wide-spread ruin, the crime, the pauperism, the broken home altars, desolate widowhood and orphanage, the blighted hopes and anguished hearts which the alcohol in this ocean of beverage causes, are appalling facts of our American civilization, that ought to arouse the statesmanship of this country.

The liquor power is strongly entrenched in the National Capital, where more than one thousand saloons deal out liquid ruin in the presence of our Legislators.

Men drink this vile compound which sends a stream of pain through the body and fills the brain with delirium. It acts instantaneously, powerfully and specifically upon the brain, stupefiies the conscience, beclouds the intellect, and in a word, it converts a rational man into a raving maniac.

But this redemption will not come through the business men of the country —they are too indifferent; nor through politicians—they are too uncertain. The pulpit and press are the grand educators of the masses. Let every pulpit in the land proclaim with tongue of flame and heart of power the gospel of Temperance. Let every one who loves the souls of men come up to the help of the Lord. Let us push forward this great moral and reformatory movement of the age.

Resolved, 1st. That we are of opinion that the only effectual way to extirpate the great evil of intemperance is by a National Prohibitory law, backed by an enlightened christian sentiment, and that we as a convention, pledge ourselves to preach, pray, work and vote with reference to that end.

Resolved, 2nd. That we will see that the children in the Sabbath School and in our families are taught the evil effects of alcoholic drinks, stimulants and narcotics generally, upon the human system.

B. F. Brown.

REPORT ON PERIODICALS.

Your committee recommend to this Convention the Blue Ridge Baptist as being worthy of a place in every family, and deserving our hearty support. It is needed in the religious education of our children. It is indispensable to the thorough development of our churches. It is a paper that will be a great help to the members of the Western Baptist Convention, (colored.)

The "Biblical Recorder" is a good paper, worthy of our support. Also the "Foreign Mission Journal," published by the Foreign Mission Board of the

Southern Baptist Convention, at 50 cents per year. To Sabbath Schools we recommend the papers published by the American Baptist Publication Society. We also recommend "Kind Words," published under the auspices of our Southern Baptist Convention, as a suitable paper for Sabbath Schools. This Literature will be of great use to us, especially to ministers and deacans and Sabbath School teachers.

H. MILLS,
W. SALES,
B. F. BROWN.

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

When we say foreign we evidently mean Africa. It is the remains, or larger portion of our race on another continent. They have no law nor civil government. They have no knowledge of God. How are they to know, or to hear the Word? Are we to carry it or send it to them? Christ's charge to his disciples, "Go ye into all the world, preach my gospel to every creature." We can see where the African stands, in darkness of sin and paganism, destitute of religion and the true worship of God. There are Missionaries who have set sail upon the broad Atlantic Ocean for Africa. Brethren, we, the members of the Western Baptist Convention (colored) ought to do something for Foreign Missions. Let us remember the widow's two mills, each worth one fifth of a cent. Can't we give this much?

Africa, except the northern part and some settlements on the coast, is inhabited by our race, whose religion is Pagan and their condition barbarious. The inhabitants of northern Africa belong chiefly to the Caucasian race. Morocco, is the most important of the barbary States. These are chiefly Moors, Jews, Berlers and Arabs. The prevailing religion is Mohammedanism, and Algeries, a colony of France, extends along the Mediterrean sea for about six hundred miles. There are Berlers, Jews, Moors, Tripoli and Egyptians. These inhabitants are of Arabic descent; Turks, Jews, Greeks, etc. They are an ignorant and degraded people. Their religion is Mohammedanism. Liberia is called the Negro Republic. It extends along the coast about three hundred miles. It was established by the American Colonization Society in the year 1821, a place of refuge for free colored, and those who might become free in the United States. In this small colony we feel the work of Missions is pre-eminently the work of Christ. I do think we this year ought to do a little for Foreign Missions, though it be a little, I think we ought to help in this work.

Respectfully submitted,

B. F. BROWN.

SABBATH-SCHOOL REPORT.

We have taken under consideration the grand work of the Sabbath-school. Whereas it is of the greatest importance that the power of the press be employed in the instruction of our people, and to elevate their minds with the blessed work of God.

RESOLVED, That we advise all of our churches and Sunday-schools to use

only the publications of our American Baptist Publication Society, supplied by Rev. E. M. Brawly, being confident that we shall secure a safe and Biblical reading. Therefore we recommend further the International Bible Lessons, also the "Baptist Teacher," "The Young Reaper" and "Our Little Ones," all published in Philadelphia.

Dear Brethren, we must be a reading people. We must be aroused from the state of slothfulness and get into the stream of free thought, which means education, the great lever power by which the world is brought under subjec tion. The Bible teaches us to redeem the time. Here are neighbors, friends and fellow-travelers to eternity, who need to know what way they are traveling. The best way to effect this is to strictly observe that in the church all of our ministers must give more attention to the grand cause of the Sabbath-school. We know that the Sabbath-school is the life of our churches. We hope to see the day that the cloud of ignorance that hangs over our Western State may take a flight to visit us no more. Then we, dear brethren and Elders, shall soon see the day when peace and prosperity shall cover our western hills. May the God of peace and consolation direct our minds and tallents in that way during this year. With an earnest heart,

GEORGE ORR,
J. R. WALKER,
J. L. CHISHOLM.

REPORT OF MISSIONARY FOR THE YEAR 1883.

Miles traveled, 1,552; sermons preached, 278; members joined, 59; members baptized, 28; families visited, 283; burials attended, 6; funerals preached, 2; lectures given, 26; days lost, 12; collections taken—Total $61.19

L. A. BAILEY, Missionary.

REPORT ON NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF MINISTERS.

We your committee on revision of the Post-offices and addresses of the ministers who compose this Convention report as follows:

C. W. Hemphill, Deavers, N. C., B. F. Hemphill, Hendersonville; A. Black, Asheville; D. Anderson, Pigeon River; J. R. Walker, Davidson River; C. Johnson, Asheville; B. F. Brown, Hendersonville; W. R. Taylor, Leicester; S. Lindsey, Shufordsville; L. A. Bailey, Brevard; W. A. Sales, Asheville; R. A. Hemphill, Forest City, N. C.; J. M. Smith, Davidson's River; M. Wherley, Webster; R. F. Whitesides, Asheville; H. Mills, Deavers.

LICENTIATES.—J. Sales, O. King, Love Post-office; J. Kilgore, Brevard; Alfred Bacon, Marshall.

R. WELCH,
B. F. BROWN,
L. A. BBILEY.

REPORT ON DESTITUTION.

We your committee have taken for consideration the destitution of this body, and find it a great work. We hear of churches all around us calling for

ministers and help. "Do send us a minister to preach to us." More especially the western part of this work needs Baptist ministers to preach the gospel. This is the cry that comes up to us from those destitute churches. Dear brethren, can we not, of so many preachers as belong to this body, try, in the name of our Master, to send a preacher to those perishing souls out there. Brethren it is our duty, according to the teaching of the gospel, to go into the high-ways and hedges and bid them come to the banquet. Let us do all we can by the help of our blessed Master.

C. JOHNSON,
A. BAXTER,
D. ANDERSON.

A bill to amend the 3rd clause of the Constitution of this Convention:

RESOLVED, 1st. That the 3rd clause of the Constitution, which reads, "Each church may be received into the Convention each year by paying 25 cts." be stricken out.

RESOLVED, 2nd. That it be amended by inserting "5 cts. on each member of the church."

RESOLVED, 3rd. That we do this for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the Convention. The amount thus collected will do this, and may the Lord help us.

L. A. BAILEY.